

# Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert

## Recreation Information Update

August 3 - 9, 2011

### Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136

Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222

TDD 876-6228

Open Daily: 8:00am to 4:30pm

**ROADS:** Eastern Sierra roads are open including US Hwy 395. Trans Sierra roads are open. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623), or visit the website at [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov), for California highway conditions and construction schedules. For Nevada roads, visit the web at [www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads](http://www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads) or call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237).

Don't miss the sights - Let someone else drive! **YARTS** (The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System) runs daily from the communities of Mammoth Lakes, June Lake & Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley; visit the web at [www.yarts.com](http://www.yarts.com) for a schedule.

Shuttle bus service to **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is in operation. Day visitors and backpackers must use the shuttle bus, as parking is limited. Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for shuttle information, current recreation conditions, maps, guides and permits; open 8:00am to 5:00pm daily, or call 1-760-924-5500.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open; know and use **hot weather** travel safety tips. Watch for loose gravel and debris on roads from recent thunderstorms. The Big Pine, Salt Creek, Natural Bridge and West Side dirt roads are open. The last two miles to the Charcoal Kilns and Upper Wildrose requires high clearance 4x4. Titus Canyon and Devils Golf Course dirt roads are closed until further notice, due to recent flood damage. The North Saline Valley road is open; 4x4 high clearance vehicles required. The South Pass into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County (4x4 high clearance vehicles required). Hunter Mountain road is impassable. Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a good backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. For descriptions of backcountry roads, check the web at [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva) (Plan Your Visit/Things To Do) and the Morning Report for current information.

**WEATHER:** Sunny days with breezy afternoon conditions should continue over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave regions into early next week. Temperatures are expected to be near normal. Smoke from the Lion Fire (on the western side of the Sierra) has reduced visibility in the Owens Valley. Fire officials expect the amount of smoke to decrease starting early next week. Highs have been in the upper 40s in the mountains, upper 90s in the Owens Valley and near 120 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the upper 30s in the mountains to the upper 80s in Death Valley.

**CAMPGROUNDS:** **INYO COUNTY** campgrounds are open. Privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities with hookups are open throughout the region. The **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** campgrounds (fee area/no drinking water) at Horton Creek and Crowley Lake are open. Tuttle Creek and Goodale Creek will be closed for renovations until at least mid September.

**INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FORESTS**, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, campgrounds are open. **BEARS ARE ACTIVE** - use food storage lockers when provided and check with campground hosts for more information. Please make sure that all food and trash is properly stored. Some Forest Service campsites are reservable; family sites 240 days in advance and group sites 360 days ahead of arrival. Check the website at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov) or call 1-877-444-6777 for more information.

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK** - Yosemite Valley, Wawona (SR 41), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat), Crane Flat and Tuolumne Meadows have sites open and reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, for a one-month block through [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov); or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Porcupine Flat, Yosemite Creek, White Wolf, Tamarack Flat, Bridalveil Creek (on Glacier Point Road), Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley and one-half of Tuolumne Meadows. Call 1-209-372-0200 for recorded Yosemite information or visit the park web site at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose).

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open sites include: Texas Springs, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/free), Thorndike (no water/free), Mahogany Flat (no water/free) and Wildrose (water/free). RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. Visit the park web site at [www.nps.gov/deva](http://www.nps.gov/deva) for information.

Campgrounds are open in the **SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST** on the Kern River and at Lake Isabella on a reservation, or a first-come/first-served basis. For more information, call 1-760-376-3781 or visit the web at [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia).

### Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County

California - Department of Fish & Game

City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

California - Department of Transportation

National Park Service

Bureau of Land Management

Mono County

USDA - Forest Service

**FISHING:** The general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and its waters are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The 2011 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting good stores throughout the region. Copies of California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov).

**WATER SPORTS:** RAFTING SEASON on the **KERN RIVER** is off to a great start - experience required. Permits and special restrictions are in effect; for information contact the Kern River Ranger Station in Kernville or call 1-760-376-3781.

**BACKCOUNTRY:** Backpackers should be prepared for sudden weather changes. Sunglasses, sunscreen and mosquito repellent are a must! Watch for lightning, which can occur with thunderstorms. **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads; vehicles must not be left with any food or related items that will attract these animals and result in significant damage.

**BEARS** (and other hungry animals, including marmots) are active in the backcountry. Backpackers should be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times! Backpackers are required to use portable, bear resistant food canisters on the Cottonwood Pass, Cottonwood Lakes, Mt. Whitney, Kearsarge Pass, Bishop Pass, Treasure Lakes, Dusy Basin, Palisade, Little Lakes Valley, Duck Pass/Purple Lake and Rush Creek/Mammoth lakes trails of the National Forest and some Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park trails. They are available to rent at many locations.

**WILDERNESS PERMITS** are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Inyo National Forest wilderness areas. Permits may be obtained at the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) during office hours. For information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, please visit the web at [www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo). Reservations for permits (except Whitney) can be made up to six months in advance of the starting date of a trip, by phone at 1-760-873-2483, fax to 1-760-873-2484, or by mail - 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA, 93514.

**THIS WEEK'S FUN: 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL KERN RIVER VALLEY HUMMINGBIRD CELEBRATION, AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup>, 8AM - 2PM.** Nature walks, outdoor presentations and great birding are planned at the Kern River Preserve in Weldon, to honor these feathered dynamos. Visit the web site at [www.audubon.org/local/sanctuary/kernriver](http://www.audubon.org/local/sanctuary/kernriver) for more information. Bring a lunch, drink and shoes for walking.

**ANNUAL WHITE MOUNTAIN RESEARCH STATION OPEN HOUSE, SUNDAY, AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>:** Visit Pace Laboratory, the high altitude research facility at Mt Barcroft, operated by the University of California in the White Mountains. Short lectures and research information will be presented from 10:30am to 4:00pm. The gate to Barcroft opens at 6:30am and closes at 6:00pm; bring plenty of water, lunch, sturdy shoes and be prepared for any kind of weather. The road is open, but very rough and muddy; 4x4 high clearance vehicles recommended. Car pooling is advised as parking is limited.

## **ONGOING ACTIVITIES:**

**MONO COUNTY MUSEUM** in Bridgeport, is open Tuesday - Saturday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, with great exhibits and photos of old mining days and a fine collection of Paiute baskets.

**BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK** is open daily 9:00am to 6:00pm. A history talk is presented daily. Other interpretive programs are offered; check at the museum for more information. The museum is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Visitors should bring drinking water and food for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six ft. leash (recreation fee area).

Interpretive programs are offered at the **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE**. Nature walks are presented daily at 10:00am and 6:00pm. Meet at the South Tufa parking lot near the south shore of Mono Lake (recreation fee area). Check at the Visitor Center, one mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm for a complete list of activities, information and a video presentation on this remarkable lake.

**EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM** in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily, with exhibits on Inyo County; including a significant collection of Native American baskets and artifacts from Manzanar NHS.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 5:30pm. Check at the Interpretive Center or the web at [www.nps.gov/manz](http://www.nps.gov/manz) for information.

Visit the Beverly & Jim Rogers **MUSEUM OF LONE PINE FILM HISTORY**; with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. The museum opens daily at 10:00am; closing at 6:00pm Monday through Wednesday, at 7:00pm Thursday through Saturday and at 4:00pm on Sunday.

**BLM JAWBONE STATION REGIONAL OHV FACILITY** is open 9:00am to 5:00pm daily for trip assistance. The station is located 25 miles north of Mojave on SR 14 for pre-trip information; call 1-760-373-1146.

Visit the **KERN VALLEY MUSEUM** to explore the fascinating history of the Old West through artifacts and memorabilia that make history come alive, in Kernville; open 10:00am to 4:00pm Thursday through Sunday.

**DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER** (temporary) at the Furnace Creek Ranch is open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:30am to 4:00pm daily.

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center.

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